United Nations A/CN.10/PV.367

General Assembly

Official Records

Disarmament Commission

367th meeting

Friday, 21 April 2017, 3.45 p.m.

New York

Chair: Ms. Martinic. . . . . (Argentina)

The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

Agenda item 6

Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): The Commission will now proceed to adopt the reports of the subsidiary bodies under agenda items 4 and 5, as well as the draft report of the Commission, contained in documents A/CN.10/2017/L.1, A/CN.10/2017/WG.I/CRP.2 and A/CN.10/2017/WG.II/CRP.3, which have been circulated. Thereafter, the Commission will hear concluding statements by delegations.

To start the process of the consideration and adoption of the reports of the subsidiary bodies on individual agenda items, I shall first call on the Chairs of each Working Group to introduce their respective reports.

I now give the floor to the Chair of Working Group I on agenda item 4, entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons", to introduce the report of Working Group I, as contained in document A/CN.10/2017/WG.I/CRP.2.

Mr. Méndez Graterol (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), Chair of Working Group I (*spoke in Spanish*): I welcome the presence of Mr. Kim Won-soo, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, to whom we extend our sincere congratulations on the work that he has carried out during his mandate in the Office.

It is an honour for me to present the report of Working Group I on agenda item 4, entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons".

The Working Group held 12 meetings from 5 to 20 April. During that time, the Working Group had the opportunity to review various documents, including the document containing the prior Chair's paper (A/CN.10/2016/L.2) and documents relating to the papers of the 2017 Chair.

I want to highlight the fact that, in carrying out the tasks entrusted to us, all delegations of the Working Group consistently showed a spirit of dialogue in an atmosphere of positivity and professionalism. Despite our best efforts, the Working Group was unable to reach consensus on the issuance of recommendations on the issue under consideration. Nevertheless, our work serves as a solid foundation for future deliberations during next year's session. The report is contained in A/CN.10/2017/WG.I/CRP.2.

In conclusion, I thank all the delegations that participated in the Working Group. It was truly an honour to work with each and every delegation, not to mention a rewarding and instructive experience. I feel privileged to have presided over the Working Group, and I thank all the member delegations of the Disarmament Commission for their trust in the chairship. We are ready to continue to advance the Commission's objectives in our national capacity.

I thank you, Madam Chair, for trusting me to discharge my lofty duties.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-10953 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): There being no comments, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the report of Working Group I on agenda item 4, as contained in document A/CN.10/2017/WG.I/CRP.2.

It was so decided.

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): The Commission will move on to the report of Working Group II, on agenda item 5, "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons", as contained in document A/CN.10/2017/WG.II/CRP.3.

I now give the floor to the Chair of Working Group II to introduce the report of the Working Group.

Ms. Stoeva (Bulgaria), Chair of Working Group II: First, I too want to commend Mr. Kim Won-soo for all of his hard work during his tenure and for being here with us.

I have the pleasure of introducing the report of Working Group II under agenda item 5, "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons". Working Group II held 13 meetings between 4 and 21 April. The Working Group started its deliberations on the basis of a paper (A/CN.10/2016/L.3) developed by the prior Chair, Mr. Eloumni of Morocco. It continued its work and deliberations and was able to conclude its work with substantive recommendations on practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons, which are annexed to the report of the Working Group, as contained in document A/CN.10/2017/WG.II/CRP.1.

I would like to thank all delegations for their hard work. I also thank the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and my colleagues for all of their support throughout the deliberations. I am personally convinced that the result of our endeavours in Working Group II shows that multilateralism can work and sends the world the message that, even on issues as difficult as disarmament, agreement can still be reached. It was an honour to work with my colleagues. I welcome their political will, great effort, flexibility and constructive stance, and thank them for their trust and support. I congratulate them all on their accomplishment.

I would also like to thank the interpreters for all of their hard work in ensuring the understanding of all, as well as the conference officers who have supported our work throughout.

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): Are there any comments on the report?

Mr. Duffy (United Kingdom): I will keep this intervention short. Following lengthy discussions and serious deliberations, the United Kingdom, in a spirit of cooperation, joined consensus and did not oppose the report of Working Group II (A/CN.10/2017/WG.II/CRP.3). However, in relation to the paper's language on legally binding instruments, we would like to take this opportunity to reassert the equal importance of politically binding instruments as confidence-building measures.

The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms; the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures; the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons are all universal instruments that play an important and effective role in developing transparency and cooperation, and hence can contribute to the enhancement of international trust and mutual confidence on a wider scale. It is important that we continue to encourage and support engagement with those instruments to ensure their full effectiveness.

As my delegation has made clear, although the language in the paper is not ideal, we welcome the fact that it has taken up the work of Working Group I and has been adopted in its own right — separate from the work on nuclear issues. That is a positive step and we look forward to the United Nations Disarmament Commission addressing other conventional issues in future meetings and hope that similar progress can be made in the nuclear discussions.

Mr. Hallak (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, we wish to extend our congratulations to you, Madam Chair, and to all of us for having reached consensus on confidence-building measures with regard to conventional weapons.

The Syrian Arab Republic supports the noble efforts to build a world free of threats and free of the use of force. Based on those principles, my delegation joined the consensus on the document (A/CN.10/2017/WG.II/CRP.3). Nevertheless, we wish to express reservations with regard to failure to incorporate 91 bis into the section on principles in the document just adopted.

That paragraph dealt with the crime of aggression and foreign occupation.

The Chair: Shall I take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the report of Working Group II on agenda item 5, as contained in document A/C.10/2017/WG.II/CRP.3 and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein?

It was so decided.

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): Once again, we have adopted the reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. I would like to thank the Chairs of the two Working Groups for their tireless efforts and their dedication. The Commission is deeply indebted to them for their able leadership in guiding the deliberations on these very complex issues.

We will now begin our consideration of the draft report of the Disarmament Commission, as contained in document A/CN.10/2017/L.1.

I now have the pleasure of giving the floor to the Rapporteur of the Commission to introduce the draft report.

Mr. Robatjazi (Islamic Republic of Iran): On behalf of the Bureau, it is my honour to introduce to the Disarmament Commission the draft report of the Commission, as contained in document A/CN.10/2017/L.1. The draft report consists of four sections, namely, "Introduction", "Organization and work of the substantive session of 2017", "Documentation" and "Conclusions and recommendations".

As is customary, the draft final report is a factual description of the Commission's work and proceedings during the session. The substantive part comprises the reports of the two Working Groups, which the Commission just adopted and which are part of the present report.

The Commission continued to work this year under the agenda adopted for the current cycle. Given the Commission's deliberative mandate, submitted oral and written proposals contributed to the objectives of the Groups. I was privileged to observe the tireless efforts of the Chairs of the two Working Groups and delegations to address pertinent issues on the substantive agenda items and to engage in in-depth discussions with a view to finding common ground.

I wish to take this opportunity to say that it has been a great honour to serve as Rapporteur during this session, and in particular to work under the able leadership of our Chair, Ms. Gabriela Martinic.

Finally, allow me to extend my gratitude to Mr. Kim Won-soo, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, for the counsel and support that his Office provided to the Bureau and Member States. Let me also express my sincere appreciation to Ms. Catherine Pollard, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, for the excellent organization and servicing of the Commission's meetings, and last but not least, to all the interpreters for making it possible for us to understand each other. I wish to commend all members of the secretariat for their tireless efforts and kind assistance.

With these brief remarks, I recommend that the Commission adopt the draft report, as contained in document A/CN.10/2017/L.1.

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): We shall now consider the draft report of the Commission. We will examine it section by section.

If there are no comments on section 1, "Introduction", I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt it.

It was so decided.

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): We will now move to section II, "Organization and work of the substantive session of 2017", paragraphs to 2 to 13. Does any delegation wish to make a comment on this section?

Mr. Alokly (Libya) (*spoke in Arabic*): There are minor editorial errors in the Arabic version of paragraph 8 with regard to which countries spoke for which regional group.

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): The Secretariat will take careful note of that comment.

Ms. Stoeva (Bulgaria): With regard to section II, paragraph 11, a technical correction should be made concerning the number of meetings held by Working Group II. Perhaps a similar correction may also be needed for Working Group I. For Working Group II, the text should read "held 13 meetings from 4 to 21 April".

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): Indeed, paragraph 10 should read "Working Group I held 12 meetings, from 5 to 21 April". In addition, paragraph 11 should read "Working Group II held 13 meetings, between 4 and 21 April". The Secretariat should also take note

of this. If there are no other observations, I shall take it that section II, as orally revised, is adopted.

It was so decided.

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): We shall now take up section III, paragraphs 14 and 15.

If there are no comments or questions, I shall take it that the Commission decides to adopt section III.

It was so decided.

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): I now open the floor for comments on section IV, entitled "Conclusions and recommendations", paragraphs 16 and 17.

(*spoke in English*)

In the light of the results of Working Group II, paragraph 17 should read as follows:

> "At its 367th meeting, the Commission adopted by consensus the report of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein regarding agenda item 5 to be presented to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Chair, the Bureau members, the Chairs of the Working Groups and the Secretariat."

(*spoke in Spanish*)

If there are no observations, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt section IV.

It was so decided.

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): Given that all sections of the draft have been adopted, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the draft report of the Commission contained in document A/CN.10/2017/L.1, as a whole.

It was so decided.

Concluding statements

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

Mr. Kim Won-soo (High Representative for Disarmament Affairs): Today is a momentous and happy day for the Disarmament Commission and the United Nations disarmament machinery. In reaching substantive agreement, the Commission has broken a nearly two-decades-old deadlock and helped to breathe life into what many considered an irreparably moribund process. At the outset, I must congratulate all delegations for this achievement. I thank all of them for their flexibility and willingness to find common ground for the sake of our collective security.

I thank and congratulate the Chair and her Bureau for their hard work and leadership in bringing Member States together. I also thank Mr. Méndez Graterol and Ms. Stoeva, the Chairs of Working Groups II and II, for their tireless and persistent efforts. My personal thanks go to the Chair, Mr. Méndez Graterol and Ms. Stoeva, and Mr. Robatjazi, Rapporteur, for the very kind words they addressed to me and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to the many former Chairs that helped to make this happen, including Ambassadors Drobnjak of Croatia, Seck of Senegal and Tevi of Vanuatu.

The adoption by Working Group II of the recommendations on practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons is a very positive and significant development not just for this body but for the millions affected by armed violence around the world. Confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons, those weapons used in every conflict across the globe, can contribute to easing tensions and building trust. They then will help us in our common efforts to resolve and prevent conflict and to facilitate the achievement of sustainable development. Measures such as information exchanges and establishing channels of communication, especially face-to-face dialogue, are essential for reducing risks and better understanding mutual concerns.

Likewise, efforts to promote military constraint measures, such as restrictions on exercises and true movements, will promote common security and foster an environment that reduces vulnerability. Today's world has been described by Secretary-General Guterres as one of new and old conflicts woven together in a complex and interconnected web. These measures can help untangle that complex web. The international community now looks to all Member States to ensure the effective application of these confidence-building measures. The United Nations stands ready to help however we can.

Madam Chair, I also welcome the informal discussion you have held on the implementation of transparency- and confidence-building measures (TCBMs) in outer-space activities with the goal of

preventing an arms race in outer space. I thank you for organizing these consultations. I also commend China, the Russian Federation and the United States for their initiative in proposing the item. The unity of these three countries — the biggest spacefaring countries — in addressing this issue in the United Nations Disarmament Commission is doubly encouraging.

First, given the vital importance of outer space for all countries, issues relating to security and safety merit consideration in a universal body. Secondly, given the strategic significance of outer space, the current global security situation and the slow progress in multilateral arms control, building upon the consensus on the outer space TCBMs can positively spill over and bring benefits to other parts of the disarmament agenda. I believe that this is the best near-term path for pursuing practical measures to prevent an arms race in outer space and to pave the way for more ambitious measures in future. The informal discussions the Commission had represented innovation in its working methods by allowing the Commission to conduct a trial run on a prospective agenda item. I thank all delegations for their flexibility in agreeing to that approach. Their interventions identified many specific areas where further deliberations by the Disarmament Commission could advance our common aspiration to maintain space as a realm free of conflict. I am encouraged by the strong support for the Commission to take up that issue in its next cycle.

This is a critical year for disarmament, with multiple important events. By breaking the deadlock in the Disarmament Commission, Member States have helped set a positive tone for the rest of the year's events — with the commencement of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons review cycle as the immediate next step. I hope new positive impetus will be provided to make 2017 a year of action for a better world, one that is safer and more secure for all.

Last but not least, on a personal note, I must thank all members once again for making a breakthrough and giving me a very memorable parting gift.

The Chair: I thank Mr. Kim Won-soo for his intervention. I also wish to thank him for his good offices and for making possible this gift for all of us. On behalf of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC), I wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

We have reached the end of this substantive session and the three-year cycle of the Disarmament Commission. We started the organizational session with a very difficult scenario: no full Bureau and no Chairs for the working groups. We managed to overcome those challenges, and we were lucky enough to have not only a full Bureau — almost perfectly gender-balanced — but also extremely professional, skilful and unbiased colleagues, Mr. Wilmer Méndez Graterol and Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, who accepted the challenge of helping delegations foster dialogue and understanding. I commend them for their hard work.

Three weeks ago, nobody would have thought that the UNDC could have adopted the process we now have. We must cherish this process and, hopefully, continue to build upon it. Three weeks ago, nobody would have thought that the UNDC could have reached compromise, but we have made it possible. That is what multilateralism offers: compromise, a win-win for all.

I encourage all delegations to follow this path. It is a long journey; it is hard and sometimes frustrating, but, like a good Malbec, it requires time. It took us more than a decade, but less than two decades. From a historical perspective, it is a short time, and I am sure all will agree with me that it was worthwhile. Let us hope that this bit of oxygen will have a positive impact on all of our future endeavours in the field of disarmament.

Concluding statements

Mr. Mahfouz (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, my delegation wishes to thank you, Madam Chair, for the efforts you have made at the helm of the United Nations Disarmament Commission for the 2017 session. You have shown great commitment and have spared no effort to ensure the success of the session.

I would also like to thank the Chairs of the Working Groups: Mr. Wilmer Méndez Graterol of Venezuela in Working Group I, on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and Ms. Lachezara Stoeva of Bulgaria in Working Group II, on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. They showed great professionalism and transparency in chairing those Working Groups. For the first time in years, we have reached this stage of our work.

With regard to Working Group II, I thank Ms Stoeva for her wisdom and smooth leadership of our work. I also thank the colleagues who demonstrated

a great deal of flexibility. I congratulate the entire international community for this.

We also thank Mr. Kim Won-soo and all the members of the secretariat of the Office for Disarmament Affairs for their administrative and organizational efforts.

We welcome the recommendations generated by Working Group II regarding the principles adopted by the Commission to establish confidence-building measures, which we have adopted today, as well as the measures adopted in 1996, which contribute to the consolidation of peace and security at all levels and the bolstering of transparency and dialogue on conventional weapons — on a voluntary basis, of course.

Confidence-building measures must consider the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, namely, the non-use of force or threats of force, non-interference in the affairs of sovereign States, the peaceful resolution of disputes, sovereign equality among all Member States, including observer States, the inalienable right of all people under occupation to shape their future and the rejection of foreign occupation. In addition, there is the principle of the special responsibility of particular major nations to address some of the problems of developing nations.

We have supported the efforts of the Chair of Working Group I, and we joined the consensus on supporting the document. However, some delegations showed a lack of political will, and that has, regrettably, hindered our work. Despite that failure, we consider the adoption of a non-official document is a positive step, as it allows Member States to become aware of its contents, and that could help us in the 2018-2020 cycle. We support the recommendations made in these documents and call on the nuclear-weapon States to review their positions and to join the consensus on worldwide and regional nuclear disarmament so that the world can be spared the consequences of those weapons. We have been waiting for that goal to be achieved for a very long time. We still have a long road ahead of us. Our objectives are noble. We need to bolster our international efforts to that end. Egypt stands ready as ever to fight against proliferation and to ensure a world free of nuclear weapons.

Once again, we thank you for your efforts, Madam Chair, and hope that the next session will enable us to fulfil our goals on conventional weapons, nuclear weapons and in outer space.

Mr. Drobnjak (Croatia): I will be very brief. Speaking not only as the Permanent Representative of Croatia but as a former Chair of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC), I would like to highly commend you, Madam, the Chairs of the Working Groups, the Bureau and the secretariat for their efficient and successful work.

Today marks an important accomplishment and a significant step forward not only for the UNDC but for the United Nations disarmament machinery in general, because after so many years of impasse and deadlock, the UNDC, by adopting a new set of confidence-building measures, began restoring its relevance and purpose. I think that we should all feel encouraged that the work in which we invested so much time and effort finally yielded fruit. I think that we should all be confident that in the years to come the UNDC will continue to play its prominent role and utilize its universal membership framework to the fullest extent. I congratulate everyone once again.

Mr. Bravaco (United States of America): On behalf of the delegation of the United States of America, I thank you, Madam, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs — Mr. Kim Won-soo — and the entire Disarmament Commission for what we feel is a very positive development, which has been a long time coming. It is the first consensus outcome from this body since 1999, as we all know.

By actively and constructively engaging in the Commission's work on the topic of confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons, we have helped to reaffirm our commitment to, and our faith in, the culture of consensus in multilateral disarmament bodies, which can, and will, make progress if we are patient and persistent.

I thank the Working Group Chairs specifically — in Working Group I, Mr. Wilmer Méndez Graterol, and in Working Group II, Ms. Lachezara Stoeva. Both were truly professional, fair and even-handed, and that is all we can ever ask from Chairs at the United Nations. I thank them both for their outstanding work.

On the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation front, while there was not as much progress in that Working Group as there was in Working Group II, on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons, our nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation discussions were frank and sincere. Dialogue on the basis of mutual respect is always

valuable and can lead to further progress down the road when the political stars are appropriately aligned.

We have had very detailed, interesting and promising discussions on the topic of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space. The goal of the topic is to aid humankind in promoting the responsible use of outer space. Therefore, we were very pleased to help encourage the Commission this year to hold such discussions and, hopefully, to take this matter forward here in the Commission, as it is being taken forward in other places.

I think we have had a very good year. As members know, I have served as a United States representative to the Commission for a very long time over the years, in many sessions. The dialogue has always been respectful and interesting. Every time I come here I learn something new, and I want to thank each member for that opportunity.

Some may say that the outcome this year was modest. I can see that argument; it has certainly been a long time coming, as I said. But I am not so sure. I simply conclude by borrowing from William Shakespeare:

> "How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a [weary] world." (*The Merchant of Venice, act V, scene i)*

Mrs. Sánchez Rodríguez (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish to thank the Chair and Mr. Kim Won-soo, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. My delegation, like others, extends its thanks and appreciation to the Chairs of Working Groups I and II, Mr. Méndez Graterol and Ms. Stoeva. We also thank the secretariat of the Office for Disarmament Affairs for all the support provided to our work in the Disarmament Commission.

As for the work of Working Group II, we would like to say that confidence-building measures are extremely important for Cuba, given that they are voluntary in nature and serve as a way of strengthening international peace and security. They should be adopted pursuant to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and should respect the specific security needs of States.

We would really have preferred that the outcome document of Working Group II had included a reference to the rejection of foreign occupation, to the principle of self-determination, to respect for sovereignty and to abstaining from the use or threat of force. That should have been explicitly set out in the document. But my delegation, in a spirit of compromise and flexibility, finally was able to join the consensus in adopting the document. This is a positive outcome, because since 1999 the Commission has not been able to arrive at consensus decisions. We therefore believe that we have achieved a positive result today.

We would have preferred that Working Group I had agreed on recommendations as well. In our view, nuclear disarmament is the priority in the field of disarmament, and I wish to re-emphasize that here. We strongly believe that nuclear weapons are the principal threat to humankind and that we cannot continue to put off nuclear disarmament. We call on the main nuclear-weapon States to join the consensus so that next year the Disarmament Commission can consider recommendations on nuclear disarmament. We will continue to work towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Ammar (Pakistan): My delegation would like to thank you, Madam Chair, for your overall leadership of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC). I also thank the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs for his statement and for his presence in the Commission at this historic moment.

I extend my congratulations to you, Madam Chair, and the Chairs of the Working Groups — my friends Mr. Méndez Graterol from Venezuela and Ms. Stoeva from Bulgaria — and to all of us. Our gratitude also goes to the representatives of the secretariat of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and to the interpreters for their hard work and support. It is because of their dedication, along with the dedication of the Chairs of the two Working Groups, that we had such constructive deliberations during the course of our work in the final year of the current three-year cycle of the UNDC.

Under the leadership of the Chair, we came closer than ever before to an agreement in Working Group II, and we finally managed to reach agreement on the text. That significant achievement shows that, exercising genuine political will, we can overcome the problems that are sometimes attributed to the disarmament machinery and its working methods. However, the root cause of those problems lies in the prevailing strategic and political realities in the world around us, as well as in the competing priorities and approaches of different Member States.

My delegation worked in the spirit of constructive engagement, compromise and flexibility alongside

other delegations during the course of the deliberations of the current cycle of the UNDC in order to reach consensus, and we remained hopeful until the very end that the Commission would adopt recommendations on both agenda items, or at least one of the two. Our efforts finally bore fruit.

The key principle set forth at the tenth special session of the General Assembly in the context of disarmament machinery was that

"The adoption of disarmament measures should take place in such an equitable and balanced manner as to ensure the right of each State to security and to ensure that no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages over others at any stage." (*resolution S-10/2, para. 29*)

That cardinal principle requires that disarmament measures be considered strictly on the basis of consensus, with the participation of all stakeholders, while allowing all States to safeguard their national security interests. Working on that basis, the United Nations disarmament machinery has produced landmark disarmament treaties. Our work in the Commission was carried out on the basis of those principles, and we were able to successfully achieve today's outcome, that is, the recommendations on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons.

Having come to the end of the current cycle, my delegation's hope and our commitment to the work of established disarmament machinery and multilateralism have only been strengthened. We look forward to working closely and constructively with other delegations in the next three-year cycle of the Commission, starting next year.

While I may not be here to contribute to the work in the next cycle and to benefit from the wisdom of highly accomplished disarmament experts working in the Commission, as my tenure in New York is coming to an end, my delegation and my successor will continue to work closely and constructively with everyone. There are no words to thank my colleagues enough for their cooperation. I feel honoured and blessed to have worked alongside everyone here and to have witnessed this historic moment.

Agenda item 7

Other business

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): As no delegation wishes to take the floor under this item, before I bring this meeting and this session to an end, allow me once again to express my gratitude to all delegations for their constructive spirit and the support extended to me and other members of the Bureau, who helped me to shoulder the responsibility of running the Commission smoothly. To them I am particularly thankful. I thank the secretariat of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the staff of the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the interpreters, the conference room officers, the documents officers and sound engineers. I would like to be able to acknowledge them each by name, but I fear I will forget someone or mispronounce their name. As such, I will thank them in writing.

Closure of the session

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): I declare closed the 2017 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.